I WON'T LET GO OF THE SECRET IN MY HANDS.

当世幻想博物誌

TALE 17

THE FOCAL POINT OF VOLUME 2 IS THE COVER!
単行本第2巻は
この表紙が目印!!

I'LL HOLD ON TO IT TIGHTLY.

Katayama Shuu
片山憲太

コト
Could this vase be the one...?
Excuse me.
Please don't touch me.

I'D RATHER NOT BE POLISHED BY A WOMAN
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE USUAL BOY?
AT LEAST GET A NICE MAN TO DO IT.

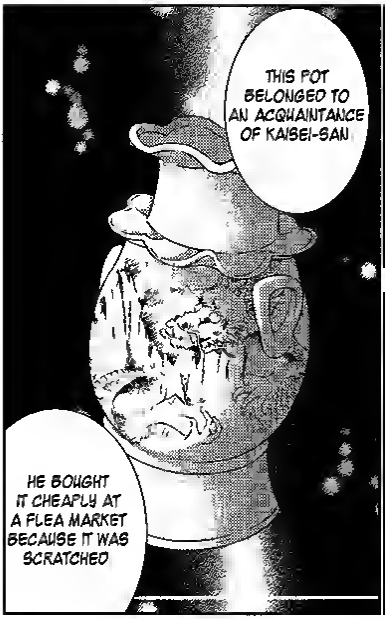
KASEN.
パタン
YOU SEEM TO BE IN A BAD MOOD TODAY.
I'M NOT.
.....
DIDN'T YOU LIKE THE FLOWERS GIVEN TO YOU?
DON'T WORRY, THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S JUST THAT..
I FEEL A LITTLE USELESS.

WHY?
YOU...
I SUPPOSE YOU THINK I'M JUST A MAN-CRAZY DEMON
OH, AM I WRONG?
BOY, I AM...
I AM ACTUALLY ONE OF A PAIR OF VASES.
.....
YOU OUGHT TO KEEP QUIET SOMETIMES, YOU AWFUL BOY.
A PAIR?
SO THERE'D BE A PERFECTLY MATCHING FLOWER PATTERN?

THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT FOR SOME REASON ONLY I GAINED A SOUL.
AND AS YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT DAMP WELL UNTIL NOW.
SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
NOT ONLY ARE YOU A TACTLESS YOUNG MAN, YOU'RE UNREFINED, TOO.
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST REALISE THAT.
IN OTHER WORDS,
I'M TELLING YOU I'M LONELY.
OH...
AH...
THERE ISN'T A GOOD MAN WHO IS THE SAME AS ME ANYWHERE.

WELL, SHINOBU-KUN..
IS THAT REALLY ALRIGHT?
.....
I SEE.
WELL, THAT'S HELPFUL.
YES.
ALRIGHT THEN, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
I'D EVEN CONSIDER BUYING IT MYSELF.

WHAT IS IT, BOY?
ARE YOU DISHONESTLY TAKING ANOTHER ANTIQUE FROM SOMEONE?
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
IT'S FOR YOUR SAKE.


THIS POT BELONGED TO AN ACQUAINTANCE OF KAISEI-SAN
HE BOUGHT IT CHEAPLY AT A FLEA MARKET BECAUSE IT WAS SCRATCHED

MY SAKE...?

AH, THAT POT...
IS THERE SOMETHING...
AH, YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

THE OWNER WAS UNABLE TO SLEEP AND DECIDED TO GET RID OF THE POT.
A CRYING VOICE COULD BE HEARD FROM THIS POT NIGHT AFTER NIGHT
HOW-EVER..
A CRYING VOICE..
IT WAS THE VOICE OF A YOUNG MAN.
AREN'T YOU INTERESTED?
HOW ABOUT IT?
.....

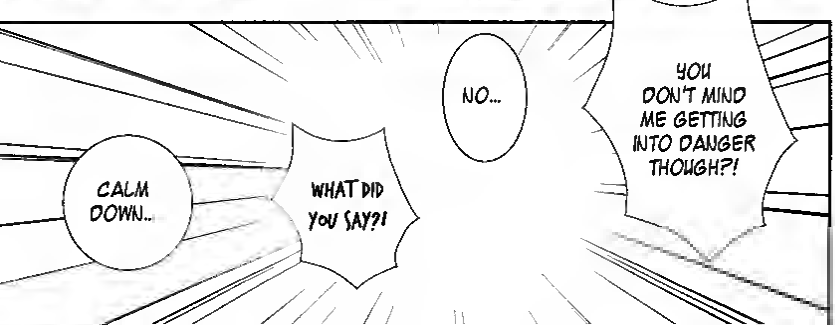
.....
IT MAY BE AN IN-TERESTING STORY...
AND YOU COULD TAKE HIM HOME TOO.
YOU CAN GO INSIDE THE POT TO SEE FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT?

YOU WON'T KNOW THAT UNLESS YOU GO AND FIND OUT.
THERE MIGHT BE A REASON FOR IT.
I'M NOT INTO PATHETIC MEN.
BUT HE WAS GROANING FROM INSIDE THE POT.

BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT BRINGING HIM BACK OUT.
WELL, GOING INSIDE IS EASY ENOUGH...

SOMETIMES YOU'RE STRANGELY UNOBSERVANT
?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
IT'S OBVIOUS!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
!
ほっ
!

!?
WHY ARE YOU COMING TOO?!
DANGER...
I CAN'T LET SHINOBU-SAMA GET INTO DANGER ALONE!

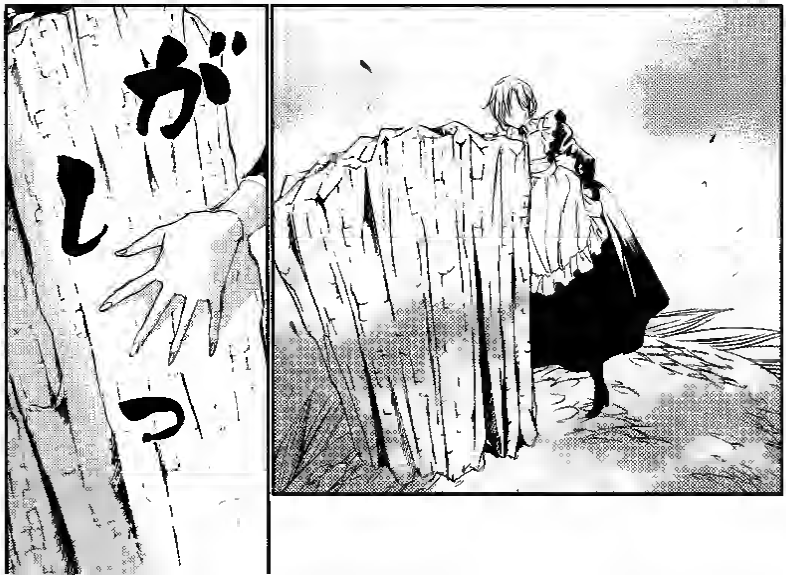

YOU DON'T MIND ME GETTING INTO DANGER THOUGH?!
NO...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
CALM DOWN..

.....
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS LANDSCAPE.
IT SEEMS TO BE THE LANDSCAPE THAT WAS PAINTED ON THE VASE

I CAN SENSE SOMETHING OVER THERE.
AS I EXPECTED, YOU'RE GOOD AT DETECTING A MAN'S SCENT.
ピク…
ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME?!
OF COURSE NOT!
……

JUST WAIT A MINUTE...
DOES THAT LOOK LIKE A YOUNG MAN TO YOU?!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WAS A DRAGON PAINTED ON THE POT.

I SEE...
THE SCRATCH ON THE POT WAS RIGHT AROUND THAT AREA
THAT SEEMS TO BE WHY THE TOP SECTION OF THE ROCK BROKE OFF AND INJURED HIM
HATSUE-SAN...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE WITH US.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?
IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?!
WE CAME OUT HERE FOR THIS?!
THAT'S TOO BAD.
IT'S NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT!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WATCH OUT, HATSUE-SAN!
!

GET AWAY FROM THERE!

SHINOBU-SAMA!
HATSUE-SAN!

……
……
シュウ
ウ
ウ
ウ

.....
oh my
ぶっすう
WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT THIS?
THAT MAN...
ISN'T THAT GREAT, KASEN?
YOU GOT TO MEET SOMEONE IN THE SAME SITUATION AS YOU, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.
JUST FOLLOWS AROUND THE MAID WHO SAVED HIS LIFE.
AND...

多亏你真地得救了
谢谢了
是爱好者！
I DIDN'T KNOW WE DON'T SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE!
Ahaha
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A CHINESE POT
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER, YOU DAMN BOY!
HATSUE-SAN
IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
YES, EVERYTHING'S FINE
PLEASE WAIT WHILE I PREPARE THE TEA

?
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK AT ME TOO?
FOR STARTERS, WEREN'T YOU SAVED BECAUSE I WENT INTO THAT POT?!
Hatsue's body is showing signs of abnormality

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当世幻想世物誌
TALE 18
tick tock
tick tock
tick tock
tick tock
片山愁
KATAMAYA SHUU

Hey...
You're dead...
Are you dead?
Your blood is red too...

STOP...

huff
huff
huff
I...
What is it that I desire?

GOOD DAY.
ARE YOU HERE, SHINOBU-KUN?
HELLO, KAISEI-SAN.
I BOUGHT SOMETHING INTERESTING NEARBY, AND I WANTED TO SHOW IT TO YOU.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

ARE THOSE BELL CRICK-ETS?
CHIRP
CHIRP
I SAW AN INSECT SELLER ON THE STREET.
AH, THIS BEAUTIFUL CHIRPING SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY WHOLE FAMILY ENJOYED CATCH-ING CRICKETS AND BRINGING THEM HOME.
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

SHINOBU-KUN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
...NO, IT'S NOTHING.
IS THAT SO?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU LOOK QUITE PALE
ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL?
I LOOK UNWELL?
OF COURSE I'M NOT!
BEING HEALTHY IS THE ONE THING I'M GOOD AT!
I HOPE SO.

BALANCING YOUR STUDIES AND LOOKING AFTER THE SHOP MUST BE DIFFICULT THOUGH?
NOT AT ALL.
AS YOU CAN SEE, BUSINESS IS SLOW HERE.
THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH ME TAKING A NAP IF I NEED TO
IS THAT SO..?
A NAP.
A NAP..?
BUT I'VE NEVER EVEN
SEEN YOU TAKING A NAP.

HEY, MISTER.
WON'T YOU BUY ONE?

HOW ABOUT IT?
WHAT CAN YOU SEE?
HOW ABOUT A FINE SOUVENIR?
IS THAT SO?
THEN TO YOU, THEY ARE FIREFLIES
WHAT CAN I SEE?
FIRE-FLIES...

I'M SELLING
MEMORIES.
IF YOU SENSE NOSTALGIA IN THE SOUND AND APPEARANCE OF A CERTAIN INSECT, YOU WILL SEE THAT INSECT
IF YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING, THE CAGE WILL BE EMPTY
I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF FIREFLIES.
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU DON'T REMEMBER THEM.
IF YOU SAW THEM, THEN THERE ARE FIREFLIES.
WON'T YOU BUY ONE?
THEY'RE BUILDING A NEST OF MEMORIES INSIDE YOUR HEART
I'M SURE THEY'LL COME OUT OF THAT NEST.

[T/N] Denkikan – A movie theatre that was built in Asakusa, Tokyo in 1903. Its name means "The Electric Hall".
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST WENT TO THE DENKIKAN. IT WAS FUN!
BUT THE HEAT INSIDE WAS A LITTLE BOTHERSOME
my stomach
I'M FEELING THE STRESS TOO!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, TAKATSUKA-KUN? YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!
SENSEI
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU BEING ACTIVE,
BUT COULD YOU POSSIBLY START WORKING SOON?
IT'S IMPORTANT TO BUILD UP YOUR CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE TOO!
RIGHT, WHY DON'T WE GO TO RYOUNKAKU NEXT WEEK?
APPARENTLY JAPAN'S FIRST ELEVATOR IS THERE!
[T/N] Ryōunkaku – A twelve story tower that opened in Asakusa, Tokyo during 1890. However it was destroyed in the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. Ryounkaku means "Cloud Surpassing Pavilion"

.....
AH...

IS THAT AN INSECT CAGE?

WHAT COULD HE BE DOING HERE?
SHINO-BU-KUN?
WELL, IF IT ISN'T SHINOBU-KUN!
KAISEI-SAN

YOU SAW THE INSECT SELLER TOO?
FIREFLIES ARE QUITE RARE NOW
THE FIREFLY SEASON ALREADY ENDED A WHILE AGO

I
.....?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SHINOBU-KUN?
YOU LOOK PALE..
AH..
I'M SORRY.
A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
IS THERE SOMEWHERE YOU CAN REST?
I SAW SOME STRANGE THINGS EARLIER AND IT'S BOTHERING ME—
NO—IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS.. I JUST TOOK MY MEDICINE—
IT'LL START TO TAKE EFFECT SOON—

A-ALRIGHT ..I'LL HELP YOU!
CAN YOU WALK TO YOUR HOUSE?!
I-I'LL CARRY YOUR THINGS!
THE MEDI-CINE..
.....
AH, SHINOBU-SAN!
SHINOBU-KUN!
IS STARTING TO BECOME LESS EFFECTIVE...

COME ON, LIE DOWN HERE
I'M SORRY, YOU TWO
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM I'LL GO GET SOME WATER
AH, WE SHOULD COOL YOUR HEAD DOWN TOO
I-I'LL CALL HATSUE-SAN!
YOU REALLY HAVE BEEN LOOKING UNWELL RECENTLY
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR?
NO.. THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY
I'LL JUST GET MY FATHER TO HAVE A LOOK
?
DOES YOUR FATHER HAVE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE?

NO...
.....
.....?
THIS IS NO GOOD, I CAN'T FIND HER ANY-WHERE.
WHERE ARE YOU, HATSWE-SAN?
HATSWE-SAN.
clatter
HA-TSWE..
AH...
HATSWE-SAN!
HATSWE-SAN!

SAN...

.....

110
TAKA-TSUKA-KUN IS TAKING A LONG TIME...
IS HATSUE-SAN OUT, SHINOBU-KUN?
SHINOBU-KUN?
HE'S ASLEEP?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SLEEPING,
BUT THIS IS QUITE A DIFFERENT SITUATION

OH...
WHAT'S... THIS?
THE WRITING ON SHINOBU'S FOREHEAD WILL LEAD TO HIS EXISTENCE BEING QUESTIONED.

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Note: This text written here is the poem "Catullus 85".

——Odi et amo. quare id faciam,
fortasse requiris.
nescio, sed fieri sentio et excrucior.——

——— I love her, though I hate her so.
You say: "how can this be"?
I know not, even though I feel the searing agony! ———

A History of Present Day Illusions

当世幻想博物誌

とうせいげんそうはくぶつし

Tale 19

片山愁
KATAYAMA SHUU

HATSUE.
YES, MASTER.
COME IN.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT.
ALRIGHT.

MASTER, YOUR EYE...
NEVER MIND THAT. THERE'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT.

THIS IS SHINOBU.
YOU'LL BE TAKING CARE OF HIM FROM TODAY ON.
YOU CAN ATTEND TO ME LATER.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, SHINOBU-SAMA
I UNDER-STAND

.....
"PLEASED TO MEET YOU".
HEY..
ARE YOU ANGRY?

HAVE YOU
BEEN ANGRY ALL THIS TIME?
THAT'S RIGHT...
I...
IT'S MY FAULT

WHO ARE YOU?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I CAN'T IGNORE ANYTHING THAT WILL BRING HARM TO THIS HOUSE.
GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW
...HMM?

WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU'RE A MORE ANNOYING WOMAN THAN I THOUGHT
SO YOU NOTICED ME AFTER ALL
I DON'T SENSE ANYTHING FROM YOU.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A LIVING BEING
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM SOME-ONE LIKE YOU
YOUR ARM...

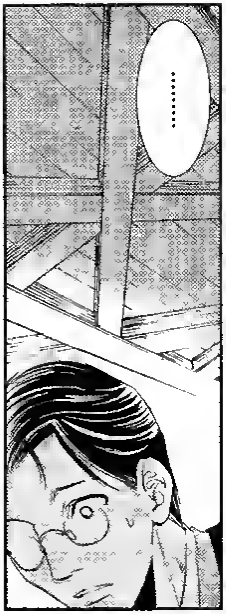
YOU SHOULD GET IT FIXED.
YOU IN-SURED IT, DIDN'T YOU?
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF YOU
THE MASTER IS ACTING DIFFERENTLY
GET OUT OF HERE NOW!
OR CAN'T YOU ASK FOR THAT?
I'M HERE BECAUSE THE MASTER WANTS ME HERE
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE
.....
WHY NOT?

WHICH MEANS THAT YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS SOMETHING TO PROTECT
IF YOU WON'T LEAVE, THEN I'LL GET RID OF YOU MYSELF!
EVEN THOUGH I SAID THAT THIS IS WHAT THE MASTER WANTS...

MY FIRST PRIORITY IS TO PROTECT SHINOBU-SAMA!
!

I'M SORRY.

ダッ
ばっ
……
ダッ
BE GOOD AND STAY THERE.
I EXPECT
"SHINOBU-SAMA" TO JOIN YOU SOON
OKAY?


.....

WAIT...!!

ねぇ
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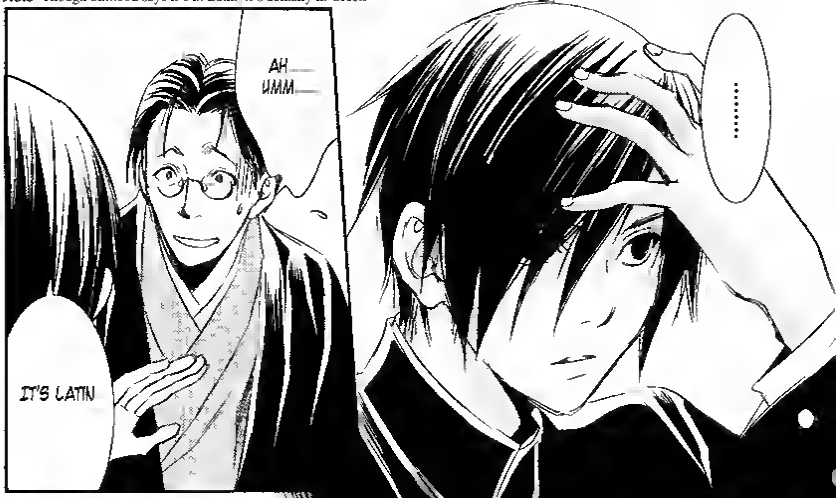
Note: Though Shinobu says it's in Latin, it's actually in Greek.



Note: Look up on "Arche" and "Thales" to learn more about the meanings behind the symbol on Shinobu's forehead.

I-IS IT SOME KIND OF CURSE?
WELL,
MY FATHER PUT IT THERE,
IT MEANS "ORIGIN".
SO IT MIGHT BE.
THERE ARE ALSO SOME SCHOLARS WHO SAY IT MEANS "WATER".
WATER...?
SE..
SENSEI!
T-T-THERE'S...
THERE'S SOMEONE SCARY IN THE CORRIDOR...
EH?
SENSEI.
L-L-LET'S GO HOME...
TAKATSUKA-KUN?

WAAH!
あわわ
FATHER
.....
EH?!

DID YOU TAKE THE MEDICINE I GAVE YOU THIS MORNING?
WERE YOU FEELING UNWELL?
.....
.....
YES.
—SHOW ME YOUR ARM

ひ…
……
THIS WILL WORK FASTER THAN THE ORAL MEDICINE.
FATHER.
DON'T SAY ANYTHING

あわわ
S-SENSEI!
I CAN'T BEAR TO STAY HERE A MOMENT LONGER
M-ME...
ME NEITHER, TAKATSUKA-KUN
DON'T SAY ANYTHING
HIS FATHER'S TRUE INTENTION.
THE STRATEGY OF A YOUNG BOY MAKING HIS MOVE.....

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A History of Present Day Illusions
当世幻想博物誌
Tale 20
単行本第①巻&第②巻、大好評発売中!
Volumes 1 & 2 are now on sale!
片山愁
KATAYAMA SHUU

SENSEI,
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
AH, TAKATSUKA-KUN.
NO, I WAS JUST WONDERING IF SHINOBU-KUN'S ALRIGHT

ME TOO.
I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS TAKING MEDICINE.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, NEITHER DID I.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN DID YOU MEET SHINOBU-SAN?
AT THAT ANTIQUES SHOP.
WHENEVER I WENT, THERE WAS NO ONE THERE.
I WONDERED HOW THEY KEPT THAT BUSINESS GOING.
I THOUGHT THEY WERE QUITE CARELESS.
HMM?
AH, RIGHT...

THEN ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO,
SHINOBU-KUN SUDDENLY BEGAN MINDING THE STORE
I NEVER KNEW
I SEE..
RIGHT...
.....
-BUT
WHERE WAS SHINOBU-SAN BEFORE THAT?
EH?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT

AH...
YOU GAVE HIM THE MEDICINE
YOU JUST DON'T DO THINGS PROPERLY
WHERE ON EARTH DID HE COME FROM?

I'M NOT THE SAME AS YOU
YOU ARE
YOU'RE THE SAME
.....

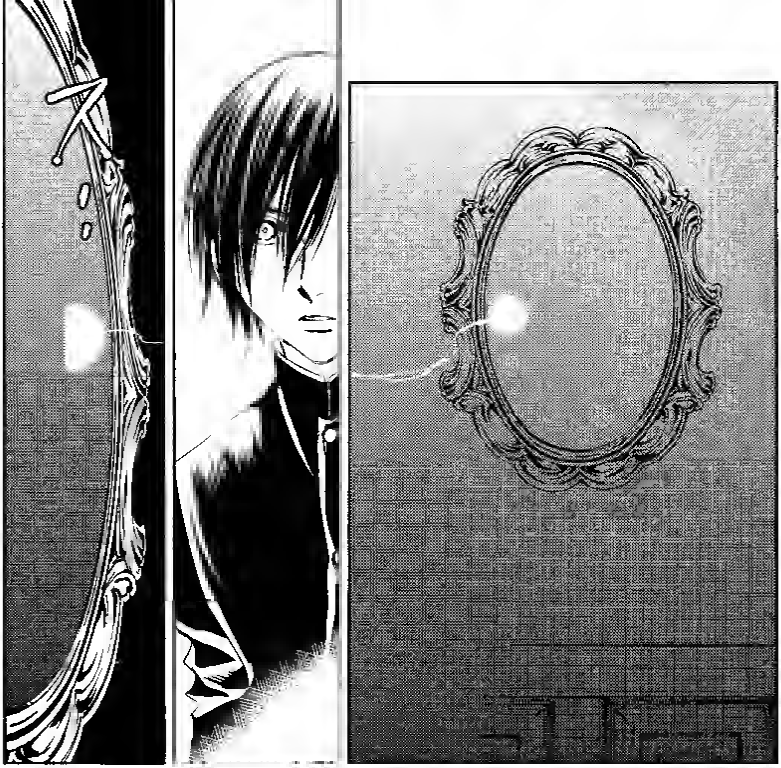
I KNOW THAT
YOU LEFT THAT HOUSE TAKING MY TREASURE WITH YOU
YOU GATHERED ALL THESE TOOLS, AND AFTER MANY YEARS,
YOU FINALLY MADE "HIM" HERE

BUT HE WASN'T LIKE THE REAL THING
HE DOESN'T SLEEP
EVEN IF HE GETS HURT, HE DOESN'T FEEL ANY PAIN
EVEN THOUGH HE BLEEDS
..HEY, DID YOU KNOW?
IF HE TAKES THE "MEDICINE" YOU GIVE HIM,
HE WON'T EVEN FEEL PAIN WHILE UNDERWATER
EVEN THOUGH "THAT PERSON" DIED UNDER-WATER
STOP

NO ONE CAN REPLACE "THAT PERSON"..
YOU CAN'T GET HIM BACK
UNLESS YOU BRING BACK THE PERSON HIMSELF!
NO ONE
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE WISHING FOR
I CAN MAKE THAT WISH COME TRUE...

SO BE A GOOD BOY AND DO AS I SAY.
HATSUE-SAN.
OKAY...?

.....
ハ・・・ン・・
HATSUE-SAN?



THIS PLACE IS INSIDE OF SOMEONE'S MEMORIES.
AN ETERNAL SUMMER
YOU MUST HAVE THEM.
FIRE-FLIES...
MEMORIES OF FIREFLIES.
You just don't remember.

WILL COME OUT
FROM THE NEST
OF MEMORIES...

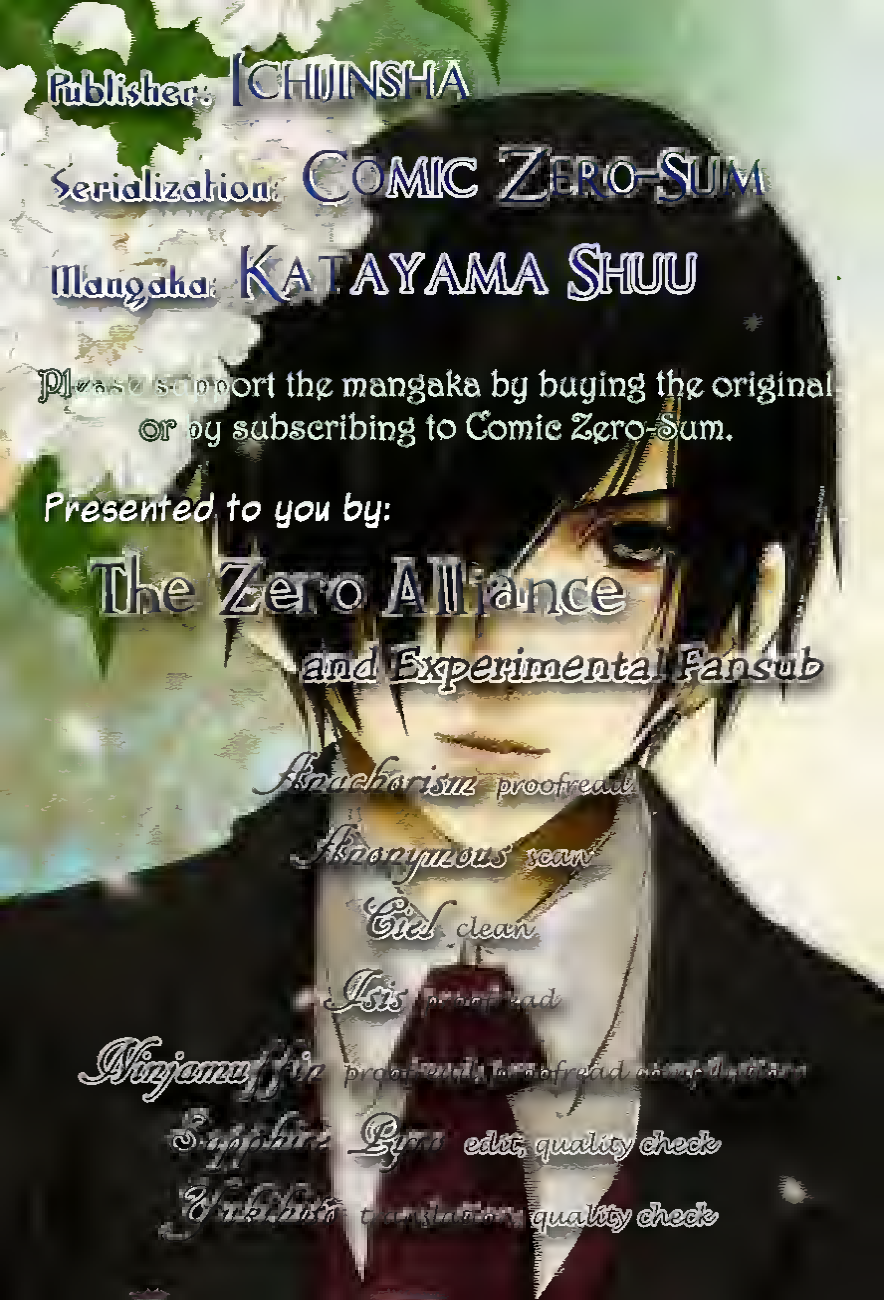
IT SEEMS
THAT SOMEONE
HAS WANDERED
HERE AGAIN...

THOUGH NO ONE WANTS TO COME HERE...
OR WERE YOU LED HERE?
ARE YOU...
SHI-NOBU...
SAMA...?
SHI-NOBU...?
AH...
YOU MEAN "HIM".
NO, MY NAME IS MUTSUKI.
MUTSUKI SAMA...
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M SURE THAT...
YOU'RE HATSUE-SAN, AREN'T YOU?

I MUST GO BACK TO SHINOBU-SAMA.
WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?
NO...MORE IMPORTANTLY THAN THAT, IS THERE ANY WAY OUT OF HERE?
YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
I'LL LEAD YOU OUT OF HERE.
COME THIS WAY.
HE REALLY IS A TROUBLE SOME BOY..
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S STILL CLINGING ON
AH,..
THAT BOY MUST HAVE TRAPPED YOU HERE TOO

THE MIRROR...
HOW AWFUL.
NOW I CAN'T SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT
AH...

KNOCK
KNOCK
FATHER...
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK ABOUT
HIS FATHER'S TRUE INTENTION
SHINOBU CONFRONTS HIS FATHER TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS...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当世幻想博物誌
Tale 2
The fluttering
stirs my body...
単行本第①巻&第②巻 絶賛発売中——!!
Volumes 1&2 are now on sale!
片山愁
KATAYAMA SHUU

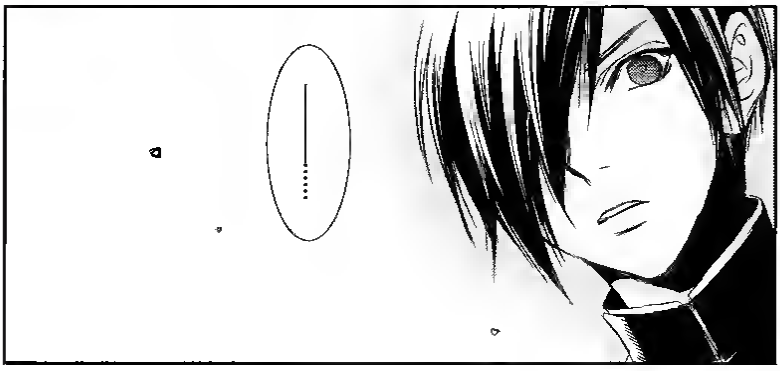
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
HOW UNUSUAL OF YOU.
FATHER.
I HAVEN'T BEEN THAT INTERESTED IN MYSELF UP UNTIL NOW.
SO I'VE NEVER HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT WHY I'M HERE
.....
SO?

FATHER...
WHY DID YOU CREATE ME?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT?
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW
DOES IT MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU?

YOU ARE A REPLACE-MENT
THAT IS ALL
ARE YOU SATISFIED?
OR ARE YOU HURT?
HURT...?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT
HMM...
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T

FATHER...
DOES THIS MEAN I'M NO LONGER NECESSARY AS A REPLACEMENT?
...WHAT?
YOU CHANGED THE INGREDIENTS OF MY MEDICINE...
THAT'S WHAT THAT MEANT, DIDN'T IT?
THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT PERSON DOESN'T NEED YOU ANYMORE...
BECAUSE ANYONE WOULD PREFER THE REAL THING


.....

BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU LOOK.
YOU REALLY ARE SIMILAR.

EVEN IF HE GETS HURT, HE CAN'T PRETEND TO BE IN PAIN UNLESS HE NOTICES IT.
STOP THAT!!
YOU'LL SPILL BLOOD ON THE FLOOR.
.....

YOU ARE THE CONTAINER FOR WHAT THAT PERSON AND I DESIRE
TRULY LAUGHING
CRYING WHEN YOU'RE SAD
AND TRULY GETTING ANGRY
AND WHETHER YOU'RE FEELING COLD
SAYING SOMETHING TASTES GOOD,
OR HOT
WHY...

WHY DON'T YOU SAY THOSE THINGS...?!
WITH THAT FACE..
IN THAT BODY..
.....
WHY...?
DIE!!

DIE!
WHAT'S INSIDE OF YOU...
WHAT'S INSIDE OF YOU JUST HAS TO DISAPPEAR!
IF IT DOES...
.....
IF IT DOES...
SHINOBU!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
……!
……
SOME-THING…
NO…

SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING...
EH?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
IT SEEMS THAT
SOME-THING HAS CHANGED ..?
RAIN ..
IT'S GOING TO RAIN IN THIS WORLD.

FATHER...

FATHER...

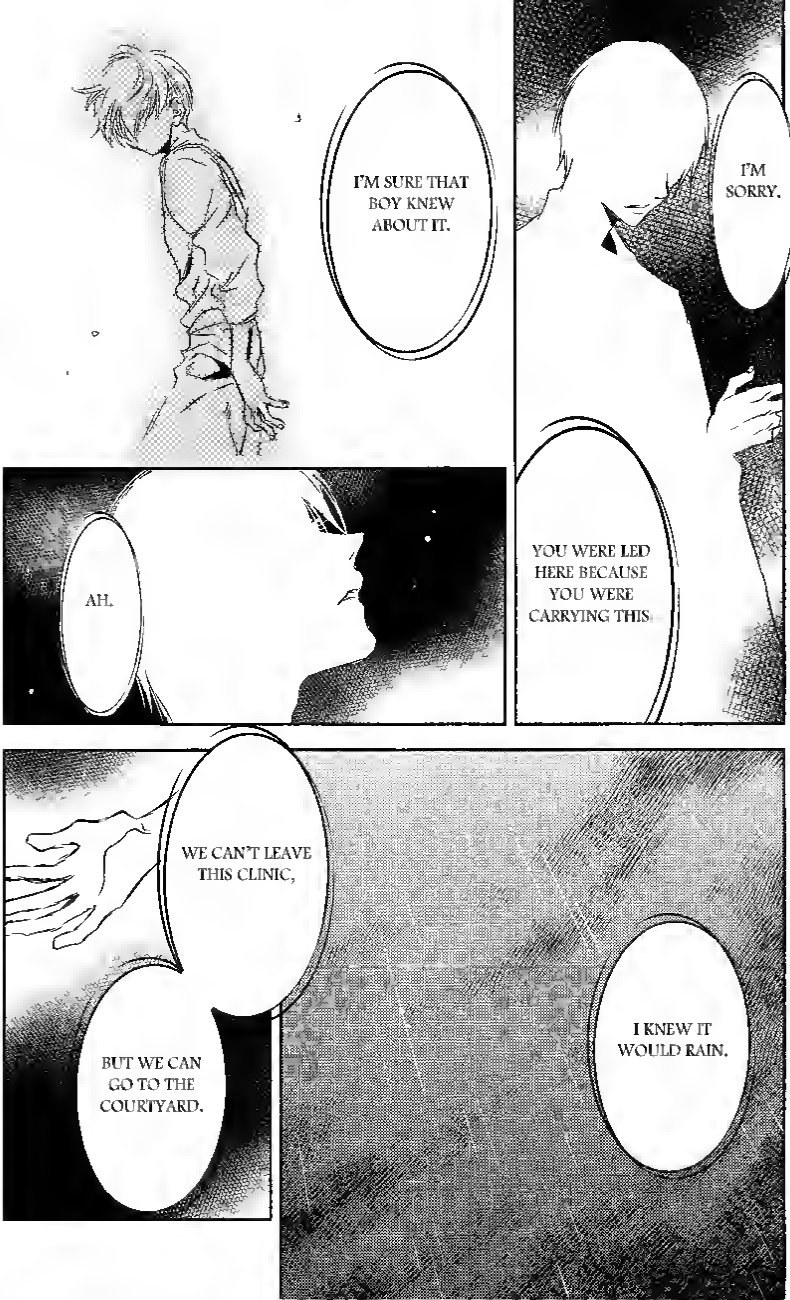
WHY...
YOU'RE...
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SHARE THE SAME DESIRE AS I DO!
SO WHY...
WHY.?

WHY...?!
AAAAAAH!

NO.
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?
UMM
PERHAPS I IMPRISONED MYSELF.
HAVE IMPRISONED ME HERE FOR A LONG TIME
BECAUSE FEELINGS
I WONDER WHY
WELL

THIS IS A CLINIC, ISN'T IT?
ARE YOU UNWELL?
THAT'S RIGHT
.....
EH...?
YOU HAVE A MIRROR, DON'T YOU?

...IS THIS IT?
THIS IS MY MIRROR.
WHEN I'M LYING HERE,
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT READ BOOKS OR LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.
THAT'S WHY I WOULD PLAY AROUND SOMETIMES, USING THIS MIRROR TO REFLECT THE LIGHT OF THE SUN AND MOON.


I'M SURE THAT BOY KNEW ABOUT IT.
I'M SORRY.
YOU WERE LED HERE BECAUSE YOU WERE CARRYING THIS.
AH.
WE CAN'T LEAVE THIS CLINIC,
BUT WE CAN GO TO THE COURTYARD.
I KNEW IT WOULD RAIN.

COME ON,
LET'S GO THERE.
SOMETHING MIGHT CHANGE.
IT SEEMS THAT IT HASN'T BEEN USED FOR A LONG TIME
THIS FOUNTAIN.

MUTSUKI-SAMA.
YOUR FACE.
MUTSUKI'S TRUE FACE... A SHOCKING DISCOVERY!!

Tousei Gensou Hakubutsushi

A History of Present Day Illusions

Mangaka: Katayama Shuu

Publisher: Ichijinsha
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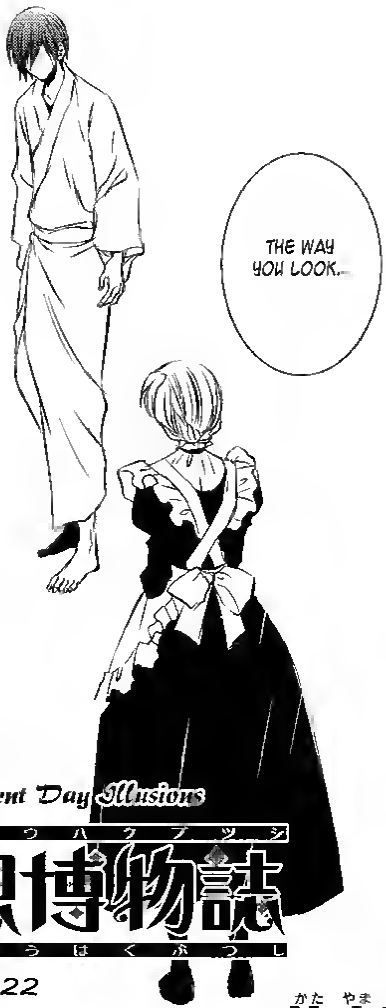


A History of Present Day Illusions

トウセイゲンソウハクブツシ

当世幻想博物誌

とうせいげんそうはくぶつし

Tale 22

片山愁

KATAYAMA SHUU

YOU MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF CONNECTION TO SHINOBU-SAMA, AFTER ALL.
HE AND I ARE SIMILIAR BECAUSE
A PART OF ME WAS USED TO CREATE HIM.
ALTHOUGH WE ARE TWO COMPLETLEY DIFERENT PEOPLE,
HE WAS CREATED TO BE LIKE ME.
THE MASTER DID THAT...

IT SOUNDS LIKE THE GROUND IS RUMBLING...
WHAT COULD IT BE?
IT'S NO GOOD ANYMORE...

IT'S NO GOOD.
THAT PLACE IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR.
THAT PERSON IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR.
.....
NEVER MIND..
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
YOURS...
YOURS...

IF SHE'S GOING TO GET IN MY WAY, THAT WOMAN CAN DISAPPEAR WITH THAT WORLD..
I'LL BRING HIM HERE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN
BECAUSE OF THAT!!
I'LL DEFI-NITELY..
I'LL DEFINITELY MAKE IT COME TRUE..

WHA...
.....
WHAT...
YOU...

WHERE IS HATSUE-SAN?
.....
WA...
WAIT!!
WHY...

WHY ARE YOU GOING TOO?
YOU IDIOT!!
THAT PLACE IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR SOON!!
IF YOU DISAPPEAR TOO, MY WISH..
.....
—THER...

HEY, BIG BRO-THER.
BIG BRO-THER...
WHAT PIECE DOES IT PLAY?
THIS MUSIC BOX...
"GLOCK-ENSPIEL"
IT'S A PIECE FROM MOZART'S OPERA, "THE MAGIC FLUTE".
I SEE...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

BIG BRO-THER..
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
I'M FINE...
YES.
I'M FINE.
ARE YOU OKAY...?

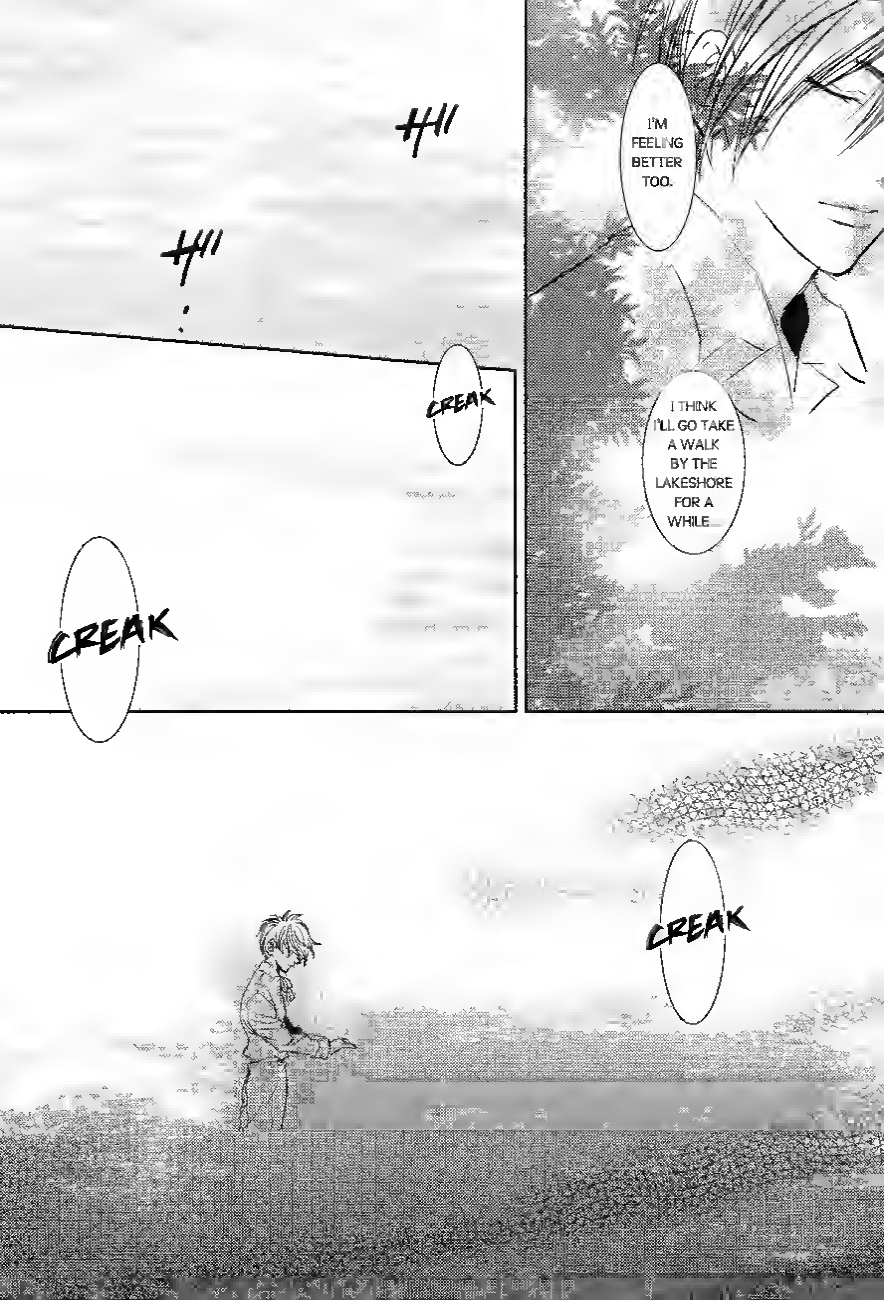
PLEASE.

STAY HERE.

DON'T GO SOMEWHERE
FAR AWAY.

PROMISE ME YOU
WON'T GO ANYWHERE.

DON'T LEAVE
ME ALONE.


HII
HII
CREAK
CREAK
I'M FEELING BETTER TOO.
I THINK I'LL GO TAKE A WALK BY THE LAKESHORE FOR A WHILE...
CREAK

YOU WOULDN'T GO AWAY SOMEWHERE.

YOU NEVER SAID THAT

Note:
The crane is believed to ferry souls to paradise

THE CRANE CRIES OUT.

IT WILL COME TO PECK AT YOUR SOUL.

I WONDER IF I CAN STOP YOU FROM GOING AWAY SOMEWHERE...

IF I CATCH THAT CRANE,

……

THE CLINIC IS..
.....
..IT SEEMS THAT IT'S BEGUN TO COLLAPSE..
THIS PLACE WILL DISAPPEAR SOON..

YOU CAN GO HOME
LOOK, SOMEONE'S COME TO FETCH YOU.
SHINOBU-SAMA
YOU REALLY DID COME
WELL, COME THIS WAY.

IT'S JUST LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR
.....
I'M SORRY.
BACK THEN...
WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE,
I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT PART OF ME FROM YOU.
BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D LOSE YOUR SOUL IF I DID.

THAT SOUL BELONGS TO YOU.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT I DIDN'T NEED TO WORRY,
BECAUSE YOU KEPT HOLD OF YOUR ANGER AND FEELINGS AND CAME ALL THE WAY HERE.
I'LL TAKE IT THIS TIME...
Shinobu is acknowledged as a separate existence

Tousei Gensou Hakubutsushi

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I'VE GOT TO GO

BECAUSE THE CRANE
IS CRYING OUT.

A History of Present Day Illusions

当世幻想博物誌

とうせいげんそうはくぶつし

Tale 23

VOLUMES 1&2 ARE NOW ON SALE!

単行本第①巻&第②巻、絶好調発売中――!!

KATAYAMA SHUU 片山愁

SHINOBU-SAMA!
STOP!!

WHY...
WHY...
I DON'T BLAME YOU.
WHY AREN'T YOU TRYING TO LIVE AGAIN?!
IS IT MY FAULT?
HAVE YOU.. HAVE YOU BEEN ANGRY AT ME ALL THIS TIME?!
THEN WHY..?!
IF YOU TAKE "THAT" OUT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN..!!

I'M SURE YOU'VE REALISED
.....
WHEN YOUR WILL
AND THE WILL OF "THAT PERSON" SEPARATED,
I CAN'T DO THAT
HE BECAME ANOTHER PERSON.
NO MATTER HOW SIMILAR WE LOOK,
PLEASE
LIVE WITH ME AGAIN

AND...
HE WON'T BE A REPLACEMENT FOR ANYONE NOW.
.....
SHINOBU-SAMA, WHAT'S THAT..?

A LITTLE FINGER BONE.
THIS IS YOURS, ISN'T IT?
.....
ぺたん。

WHY DO YOU THINK THE LEFT LITTLE FINGER IS USED WHEN MAKING A PROMISE?
IT'S BECAUSE THE LEFT LITTLE FINGER IS BELIEVED TO BE DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE HEART.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND THAT FINGER HAS TWO MEANINGS.
"ETERNITY" AND "CREATION".
YOUR FATHER IS SORROWFUL,
AND HOPELESSLY IDEALISTIC.

COME, YOU SHOULD BE GOING NOW
THIS PLACE WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER
YOU SHOULD KNOW
THE WAY HOME.

WELL, THEN...
GOOD-BYE
SHINOBU-SAMA...?
I THOUGHT WE COULDN'T RETURN WITHOUT THAT MIRROR...

HATSUE-SAN
DO YOU KNOW WHAT AN "AQUA MIRROR" IS?
AN AQUA MIRROR
IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID?

COME HERE...
IF WE GET BACK SAFELY,

I'D LIKE SOME TEA
OF COURSE!

ハラ…
SHINOBU-SAMA!!

CRACK
CRACK
ARE'NT YOU SCARED?

I'M NOT SCARED.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU THINK I'M ANGRY ABOUT?
AREN'T YOU ANGRY AT ME?
I'M NOT ANGRY
WELL...
THERE ARE...
A LOT OF THINGS..

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN LIVING WITH PAIN AND REGRET FOR A LONG TIME,
SO LET'S PUT AN END TO THAT.
BEING OVERWHELMED BY SUFFERING AND GUILT, TOO
LET'S STAY HERE AND DISAPPEAR.

ポツ
ポツ

HE WAS STILL SO YOUNG...
HOW TERRIBLE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT AND NOT BECAUSE OF HIS ILLNESS...
YOUNG MASTER MUTSUKI
•SHINOBU AND HATSUE RETURN SAFELY.
AND AS FOR THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED TO MUTSUKI AND THE YOUNG BOY...?!

Tousei Gensou Hakubutsushi

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AH...
WHY WAS HE EVEN OUT ON THE BOAT BY HIMSELF ANYWAY?
HE MIGHT'VE BEEN ILL, BUT HE WAS STILL A GOOO SWIMMER.
BUT HOW OIO HE OIE IN THE WATER?

Tale 24

A History of Present Day Illusions

当世幻想博物誌

単行本第①巻＆第②巻、大好評発売中――!!

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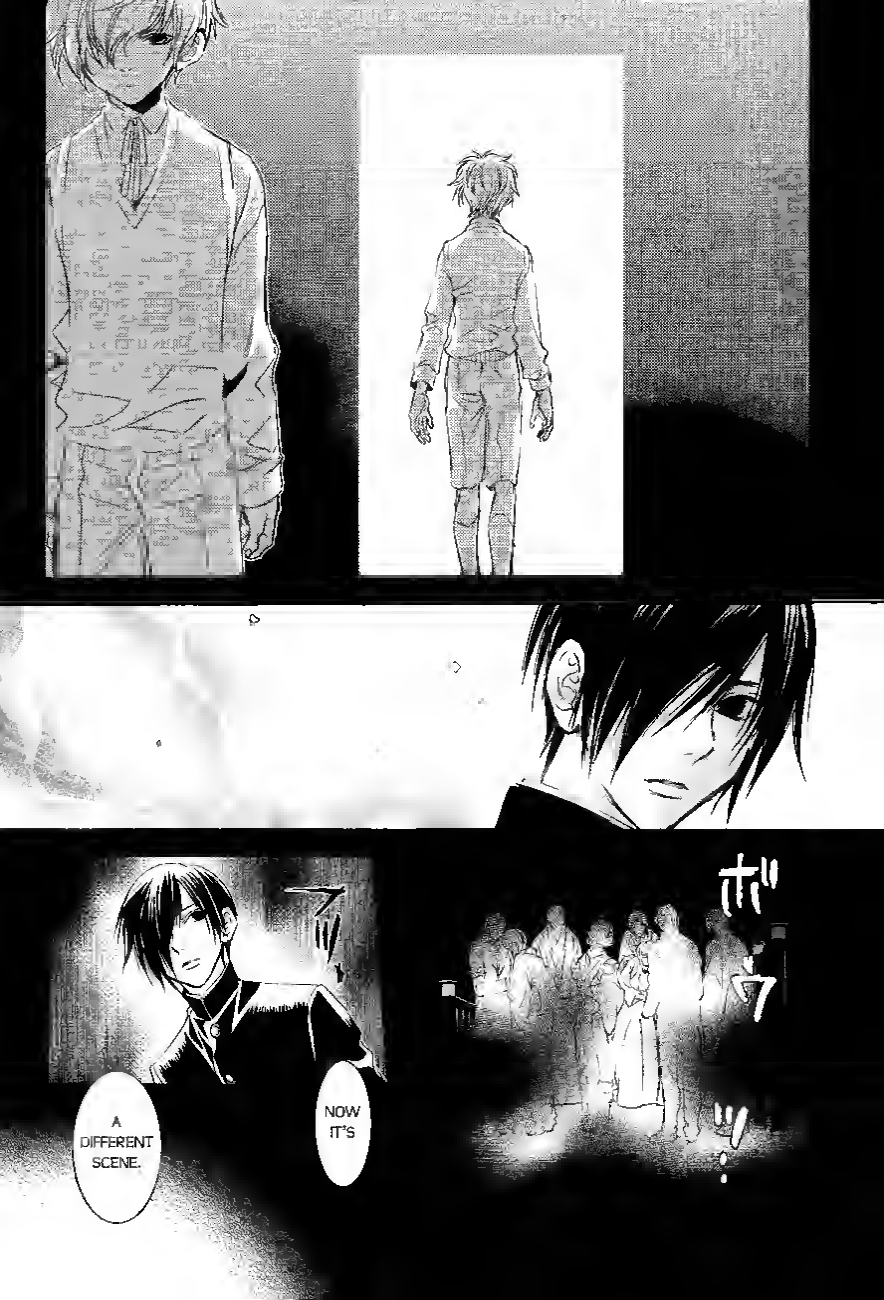
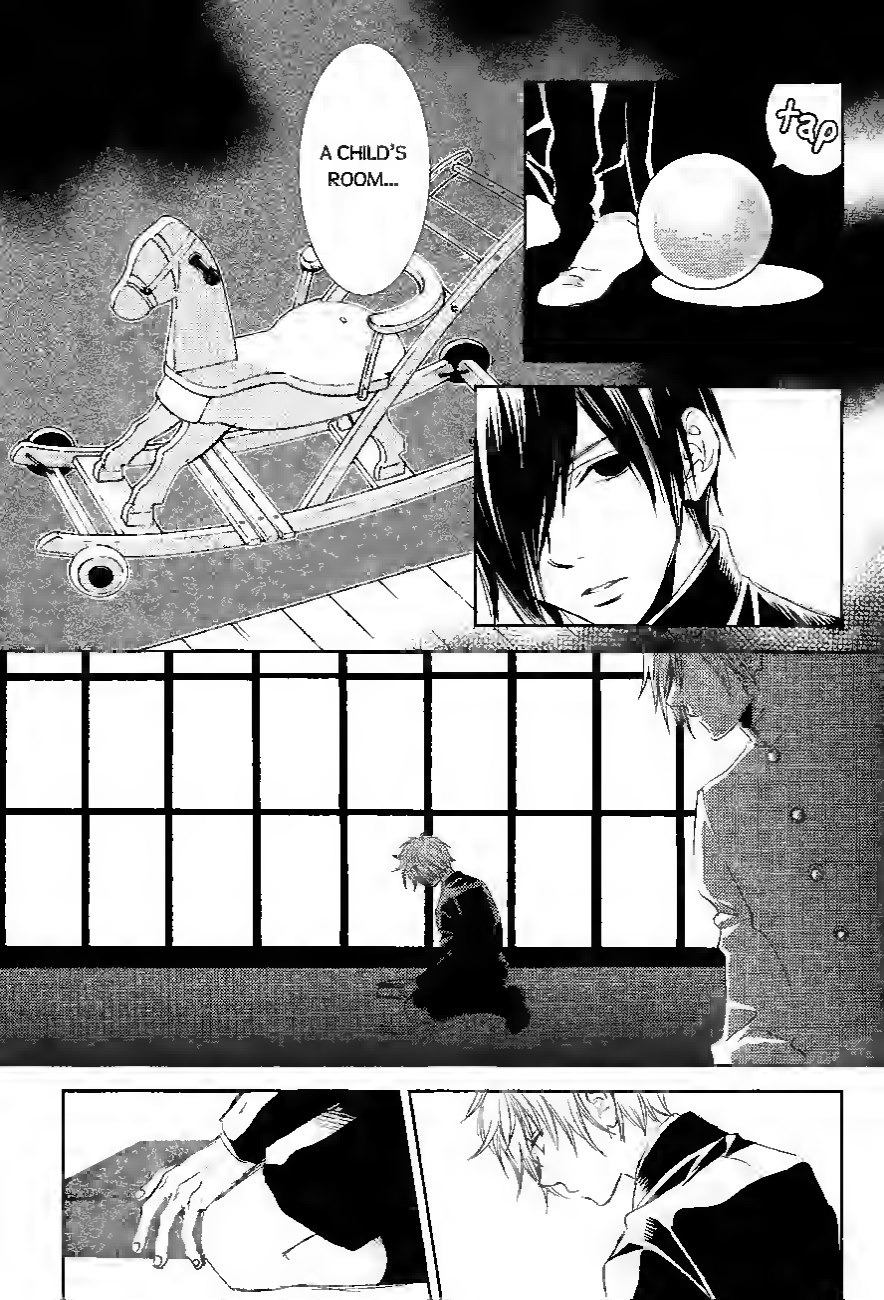
片山愁

KATAYAMA SHUU

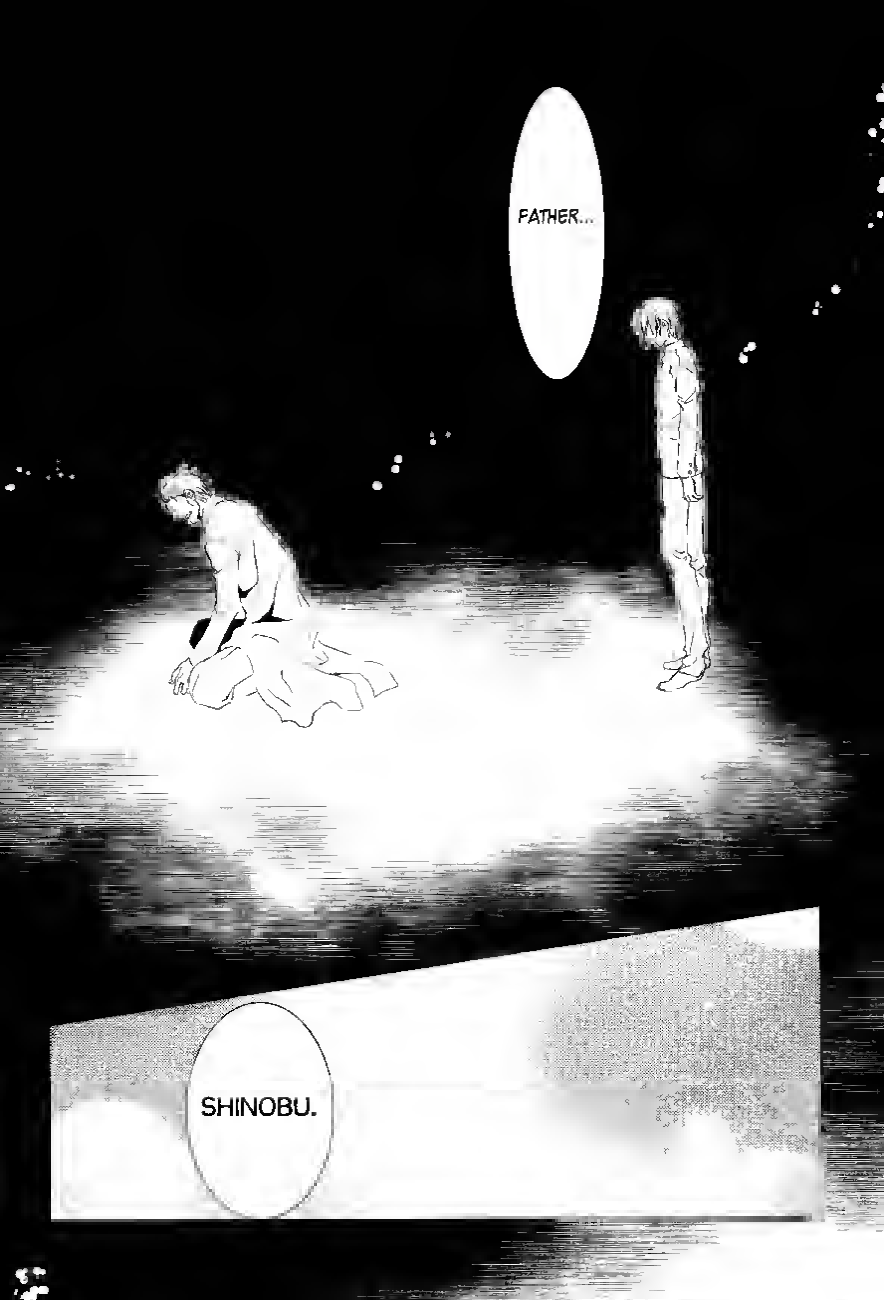
A DREAM THAT SOMEONE ELSE IS HAVING...


NOW IT'S
A DIFFERENT SCENE.


A CHILD'S ROOM...
tap

.....
DID HE WANT TO BE KILLED?
DID HE WANT TO DIE?
.....
"HE" WASN'T THE ONE THAT WAS ANGRY.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS ANGRY.
THAT'S RIGHT...

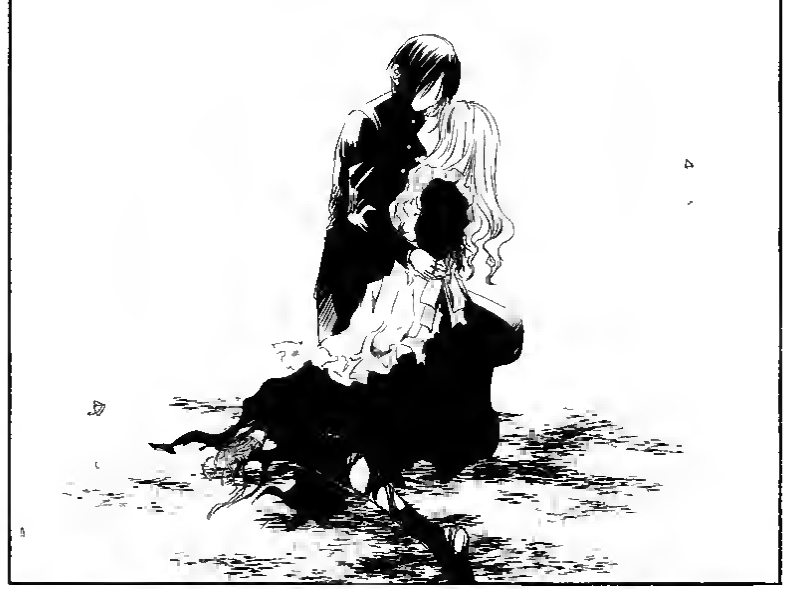
I WANTED TO BRING HIM BACK AGAIN
BUT YOU LOST HIM THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS.
I WAS ALWAYS ANGRY AT HIM
AGAIN.
BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T MAKE ME A PROMISE
AND AT MYSELF FOR WANTING THAT.


FATHER...
SHINOBU.

ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T NEED TO EAT,
YOU MUST TAKE THIS EVERY DAY,
AND REFER TO IT AS "MEDICINE".
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO IT,
BUT YOU'LL SEEM STRANGE IF YOU DON'T
GET INTO THE HABIT OF DOING IT.
HUMANS DO SOMETHING CALLED BLINKING
IF ANYONE ASKS YOU ABOUT YOUR MOTHER,
SAY THAT SHE DIED WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD.
HE'S ALWAYS IN A BAD MOOD.

HE HAD BEEN
HIMSELF
THIS

HATSUE-SAN...
.....



BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
SHINO...
BU...
SA...
MA..
SHI...
.....

ARE...
YOU...
AL ..
RIGHT
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ

SHINOBU-SAN!!
SHINOBU-SAN
I'M GLAD YOU GOT BACK OKAY
H-HATSUNE-SAN...
AH!
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED...?!

.....
SHINGO-SAN...
HOW IS MY FATHER...?
EH...?
AH...
HE SURVIVED THE FALL.
BUT THE DOCTOR SAID HE HURT HIS HEAD,
SO HE'S NOT SURE IF YOUR FATHER WILL WAKE UP...

.....
I SEE...
AH...

SHI.
SHINOBU-SAN...

KAISEI-SAN.
SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO TAKE CARE OF MY FATHER.
IT WASN'T A PROBLEM AT ALL.

AH, SHINOBU-KUN.
YOU'RE SAFE.

EH?
I-IS THAT HATSWE-SAN?!
.....
YES.

KAISEI-SAN
W-WHAT IS IT?
I'M SORRY TO ASK THIS WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HELPING ME,
BUT COULD YOU LEAVE ME ALONE WITH MY FATHER FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
A-AL-RIGHT...
OF COURSE
SENSEI!
TAKA-TSUKA-KUN
LET'S WAIT IN THE LIVING ROOM FOR A WHILE

O-OKAY...
STILL, I'M GLAD WE CAME TO CHECK UP ON THEM.
I DIDN'T THINK THINGS WOULD BE THIS BAD.
SENSEI?
HMM?
DID YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
THAT HATSUE-SAN IS...
NO.
I HAD NO IDEA.

I WONDER IF SHE'S ALRIGHT...
.....
SO DO I..
サラ！

NEXT TIME, THE SHOCKING FINAL CHAPTER!

Tousei Gensou Hakubutsushi

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感動の幻想譚、ついに最終回——!!

The moving tale of illusions has reached its final chapter!!

当世幻想博物誌

トウセイゲンソウハクブツシ

A History of Present Day Illusions

Final Tale

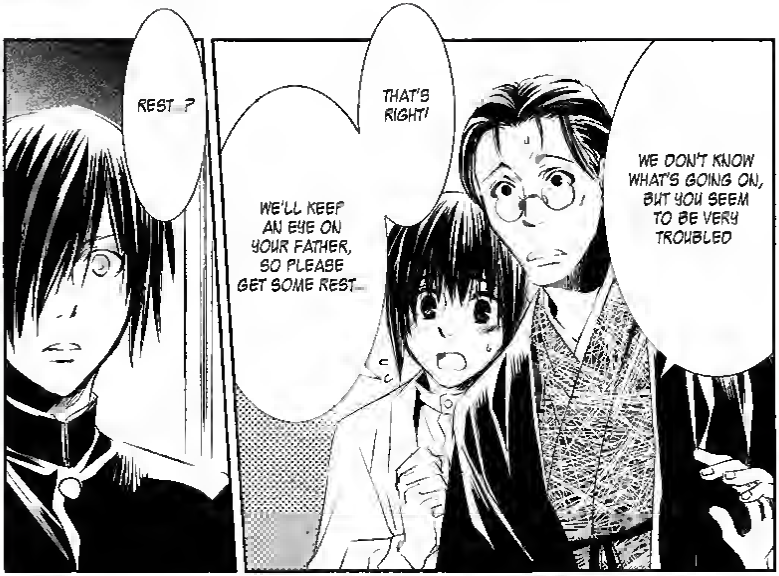
片山憲
KATAYAMA KEN

I WONDERED WHEN
I WOULD BE JUDGED.
IN THE DEEP FOREST,
I EXTINGUISHED THE LAMP WHICH
WAS MEANT TO LIGHT MY WAY.
WHILE I SEARCHED FOR
A REPLACEMENT,
I STARTED DDUBTING WHETHER
I WAS LOOKING FOR A LIGHT SO
I COULD LEAVE THE FOREST,
DR WHETHER I HAD WANDERED
INTO THE DARKNESS WHEN
I TRIED TD SEARCH FOR A LIGHT.
IN THE FOREST CALLED REGRET.

FATHER.

STOP LOOKING DOWN AT YOUR FEET AND LOOK UP INSTEAD.
THE LIGHT THAT SHINES UPON YOU
HAS ALWAYS BEEN RIGHT ABOVE YOU.
FATHER...

CREAK
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SHINOBU-KUN?
SHINOBU-SAN.
KAISEI-SAN, SHINGO-SAN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, YOU TWO.
I'LL MANAGE THE REST BY MYSELF SOMEHOW
IT'S ALREADY LATE
PLEASE GO HOME AND REST
EH...
B-BUT...


REST...?
THAT'S RIGHT!
WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR FATHER, SO PLEASE GET SOME REST...
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT YOU SEEM TO BE VERY TROUBLED

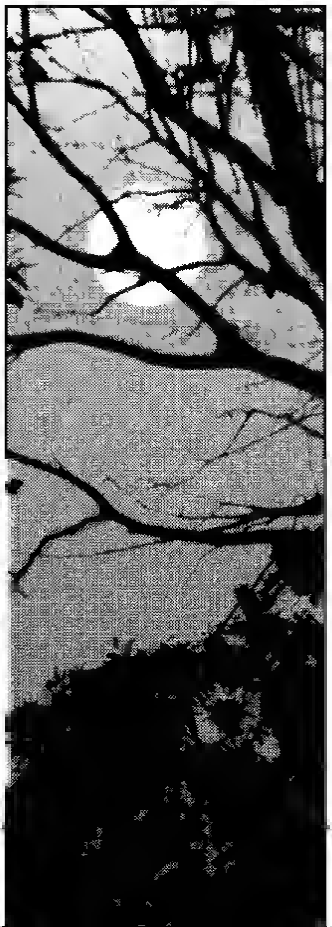
EH...?
THE ONLY THING I NEED IS THE "MEDICINE" MY FATHER GIVES ME.
KAISEI-SAN.
I DON'T NEED SLEEP.
OR FOOD EITHER.

B-BUT..
IF YOUR FATHER ISN'T AROUND, THEN YOU'LL..
.....
.....
NO...
S-SENSEI..

NO!
WE'RE GOING TO STAY HERE TONIGHT!
ALTHOUGH IT PROBABLY WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE...
S-Sensei!

WOULDN'T IT FEEL MORE REASSURING IF WE WERE TOGETHER?!
AREN'T I YOUR FRIEND?
きょとん
.....
FRIEND..?

S-Sensei...
A-Am I wrong?
EH?



カつきた
AH, THAT'S NO GOOD.
WON'T THEY CATCH A COLD?
うと
はっ
うと
はっ

FATHER.
WHAT IS A "FRIEND"?
HOW DO YOU DEFINE AN "ACQUAINTANCE"?
I KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD, BUT I STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND.

OO I THINK OF KAISEI-SAN AS A "FRIEND"?
I REALLY... WANT TO KNOW THAT.
I WANT TO KNOW THAT.
MMM
.....?
.....

UGH?!
HA!!
.....!?
.....
O-O-Oww...
I-I'M SORRY, TAKATSUKA-KUN!
SHINOBU-KUN...

HMM?
S-SENSEI.
DIDN'T SHINOBU-SAN SAY SO HIMSELF?
THAT'S STRANGE, HE SHOULDN'T BE SLEEPING.
OH... HE'S ASLEEP?
SHI-
SHINOBU-KUN.
SHINOBU-KUN...

コト…

MADAM
I REALLY WANTED
TO KNOW
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT?
I FOUND THIS WHEN I WAS SORTING OUT THE GUEST ROOM
THE ANSWER
I WONDER IF IT WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE STORE-HOUSE WHEN SHINOBU-SAN WAS HERE...
IT'S QUITE OLD
OH MY

.....
なぁに？
MADAM?
OH DEAR
I WONDER WHY,
BUT I SUDDENLY FELT SAD WHEN I LOOKED AT IT
...I WONDER IF THIS WAS SOMEBODY'S KEEPSAKE.

ARE YOU HERE, UNCLE?
UNCLE

AH! HELLO, KOTO-SAN
OH MY!
I SEE YOU'RE DRESSED IN YOUR BEST CLOTHES! THEY REALLY SUIT YOU.
HEHE. THANK YOU, SHINGO-SAN.
I'VE COME TO GIVE MY NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS
SENSEI IS OUT MAKING NEW YEAR'S CALLS TOO.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO AND JOIN HIM.
HOW ABOUT WE GO TOGETHER?
AH, WOULD THAT BE ALRIGHT?

tick
tock
tick
tick
tock
tick
tock
tick
tock
IT'S COLD, ISN'T IT?

EH?
AH...
R-RIGHT... IT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR YOU
I KEEP FORGETTING THAT YOU'RE..
YOU DON'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT FROM A HUMAN, YOU SEE

KAISEI-SAN...
HMM?
EH?
I CONSIDER YOU A FRIEND
.....
I SEE
I SEE...

AH. HELLO, YOU TWO
I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE!
THANK YOU
HELLO
HAPPY NEW YEAR
HAPPY NEW YEAR
HEY, SHINOBU-SAN
YES?
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY AFTER SEEING ME?
AH...
THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS ANYWAY
I'VE GIVEN UP

YOU LOOK VERY BEAUTIFUL
?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, EVERYONE?
DID I SAY SOMETHING STRANGE?
NO..
QUITE THE OPPOSITE...
YOU SHOULD SHUT THE WINDOW SOON.

OVER-EXERTING YOURSELF WILL BE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH
ALRIGHT...
NO...
I WANT TO LOOK AT THE SNOW FOR A LITTLE LONGER
I'LL BRING YOU SOMETHING WARM TO DRINK THEN
.....

MASTER
YOU ARE NECESSARY FOR ME
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
TO PROTECT SHINOBU-SAMA AS YOU ORDERED.
FOR HIS SAKE AS WELL

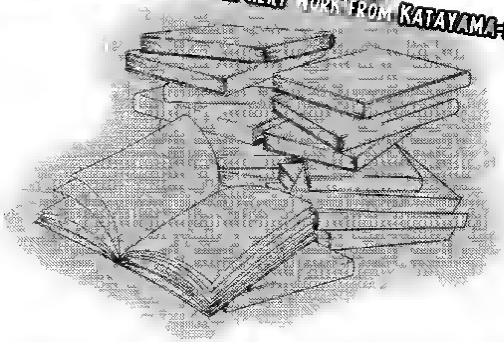
THIS WORLD IS AN ILLUSION.

Sign: Second-hand shop

Note: The colours mentioned are traditional Japanese colours.

SO,
WHAT KIND
OF STORY
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO HEAR?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING.
PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT WORK FROM KATAYAMA-SENSEI.



END

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